(b) The total consumption of various CFCs to be phased out by approved projects is 4098 MT.

(c) Approved projects are eligible for duty free imports of alternate ozone friendly material equivalent to quantity of CFCs being used during the period for which operational costs are approved in the project.

(d) No such information appears to have been received.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Under a simplified procedure adopted for this purpose and with a view to encourage enterprises to come forward with ODS phase out projects, certificate of CFC consumption in a specified year is obtained from the following two sources before funds are released for approved project:

(i) A duly authorised person of the enterprise; and

(ii) A Chartered Accountant.

Transfer of Industries from Delhi

3278. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting headed by the Union Home Minister alongwith Union Labour Minister, the Chief Minister and Labour Minister of NCT, Delhi and the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi with the representatives of the trade unions for providing relief to unemployed labourers was held in May, 1997 in the aftermath of an incident of self immolation by a labourer on May Day;

(b) whether the Government had given assurance to provide immediately six months salary as relief to the labourers rendered unemployed due to the order of Supreme Court to transfer some industries out of Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and whether the assurance given was fulfilled; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. It was decided in the said meeting that the Lt. Governor of Delhi should take up the matter with the Industries concerned so that the problem relating to payment of wages, etc. to the workmen could be sorted out. In pursuance to this decision, the Lt. Governor of Delhi had separate meetings with the representatives of the trade unions as also of the managements of the mega industries concerned. It was eventually decided to depute officials of the Labour Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to affected textile units, namely, Birla Textile Mill, Swatantra Bharat Mills and DCM Silk Mills from the 21st May to 27th May, 1997 to ensure that the dues admissible to the workmen was paid to them. However, inspite of wide publicity given to this decision, it was reported that the response from the workmen was not encouraging.

Reservation to Buddhist Minority in Maharashtra Assembly

3279. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Budhists in the State of Maharashtra have been deprived of their political reservation in the State Assembly as well as Lok Sabha although they have been included in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government desire to extend this benefit to them as par with the other Scheduled Castes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Neo-Bhuddhists were treated as Scheduled Castes in 1990. 18 seats in the legislative Assembly of Maharashtra for Scheduled Castes and 3 seats in Parliament Constituencies for Maharashtra are reserved for Scheduled Castes.

No separate reservation for Buddhist in fruidal.

Liberalisation of Visa Policy

3280. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to simplify/ liberalise visa norms to boost inflow of foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Government of India follows liberal policy regarding grant of Tourist visa. Powers have been delegated to all Indian Missions abroad to grant Tourist visa liberally. Further, foreign tourists in group of four or more arriving